

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- From the President
- February Program
- January Meeting Minutes
- Smith Chart Recap
- Charlie Emerson, N4OKL
- DX Contests

## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

A stunning loss. We are all saddened by the news of Charlie Emerson N4OKL passing. A few years ago I rode to and from Dayton with Charlie and got some insight into all the things Charlie and his team of directors did to make our Hamfest such a success. I'm honored that the Hamfest Committee asked me to attend the Orlando Hamcation as their representative to let Huntsville's vendors know our Hamfest will continue and to seek out new opportunities. I'll have a small report to share at next Tuesday's meeting.

Since our last meeting your Club officers met to plan the significant annual club functions. Our Banquet will be held at the same venue – the Best Western Madison. Our guest speaker will be Bob Allphin K4UEE on: "A Preview of the Upcoming Bouvet Island DXpedition (3Y0Z) : The Challenges and the Adventure." This is our Club's most significant annual function and we're asking all members to take an active role in hosting the growing attendance.

Mark your calendars for the annual club picnic on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the home of Kelley W4VPZ. This ideal location is just a stone's throw from the Monte Sano State Park and saves the club the park rental fee. Thank you Kelley for offering this for the club.

One of the brainstorm ideas at the officer's meeting was increasing the use of W4QB – the club's "DX Repeater". To that end we're going to resurrect a short weekly net to encourage more conversational usage. That's not to discourage the breathless "DX Alert, DX Alert,

P5XYZ on 21015, 21105. He's listening up 3.1415" type of announcements. Rather it's to promote more shack to shack conversations. Starting the week after our meeting we'll begin this net at 8:02 PM on the Tuesday evenings where we don't have a meeting. Why not simply 8 PM? Tune in to find out.

We've had some good DX lately. Reports from participants in ARRL160CW was that conditions were the best in years with low noise and good propagation into EU. Don't forget to write those new entities onto the sign-in sheet at the next meeting. If you write neatly enough they may count as confirmed QSO's.

Here in early February several of us are chasing TL8TT (Central African Republic) on multiple bands. While not extremely rare, it's rare enough to warrant some time at the radio. Keep an ear out later in the month for the more rare XX9D (Macao). You'll find a well-organized list of DX activations by Googling "Announced DX Operations" and following the links.

I'll add one more comment the old-timers probably know about but might help a new ham bag a needed country. A few weeks ago I encountered a healthy 20m Phone pile-up for a country and the guy was simplex. He was running a decent rate but I couldn't get through. I moved up 170 Hz and worked him first call. That frequency difference wasn't enough to require him to re-tune but it moved the pitch of my transmission above the din of the other callers. Try it sometime.

73,

Mark N4BCD, President, NADXC

## Industrial uses of Mixers

Program by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

With high-speed ADCs making direct-sampling receivers the future of HF bands, we might eventually forget the mixer as it fades into obscurity as a key receiver front-end component. Before that happens, let's look at some non-radio (mostly) mixer use. Get to the Golden Corral around 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for the program. See you there!



## January Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ—NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Members attending 21 Guests 3

### Announcements

Welcome to our three visitors this evening.

After Amateur Electronic Supply went out of business in July 2016, GigaParts began hiring the AES staff in Las Vegas and working on moving the operation to a new location less than 5 minutes from the famous Las Vegas Strip and just 3 miles from the former AES building. The Las Vegas store is the primary distribution center of GigaParts shipments to the western half of the U.S., and a showroom will be open for visitors in another few months.

Tom KG4CUY's keyer was passed around.

MD WA4DXP shared a rebuild of a 50-year-old Ameco (tube) code practice oscillator, an innovative design for its time, and his DXCC certificate.

Ham Radio Deluxe and the exit of Rick Ruhl was discussed. Some other options for contest (and general) logging were discussed. Chuck N4NM described the DXLab suite of 8 modules that he uses. Jim N4KH described Logger32 that he uses. Several other members have experience with these programs and added to the discussion.

Steve AG4W reported a reply letter from Tom Gallagher NY2RF concerning the increased cost of the ARRL outgoing QSL card service. Fees have risen to \$8 for the first ounce.

Kelley W4VPZ displayed QSL cards recently received from Malta and Dominica, which are #86 and #87 toward DXCC – not bad for a wire antenna.

### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,485.21
ARRL Spectrum Defense *	70.00
*matched Club members' donations	
Dues paid for 2017	\$ 85.80
Paypal (dues pd for 2017)	\$ 138.28
Ending Balance	\$ 3,639.29

### Membership Applications

None

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Discussion of \$480 deficit in the 2017 proposed budget.

Some ideas were offered:

- Grow the Hamfest banquet by 10%.
- Increase annual dues for members (last raise was around 2006).

The officers will consider these ideas. The deficit has been noted, but is not considered a serious problem for a single year, but should not be allowed to continue unchecked in future years.

The 2017 budget was approved by a membership vote.

### Door Prize

Kevin KG4TEI won the drawing for a 2017 ARRL shack calendar and DXCC booklet.

### DX Worked

Stephen KK4TJP FK1 and FK8 – 40m, attic antenna

Tim AB4B 7Z1SJ 160m w/100W

Bruce AC4G TA3D, E51, OH0 (160m), 9MZAK (80m CW) LP, 9V14C (30m & 40m LP)

Bob K4RHB Maritime Mobile HP/KO? 20m

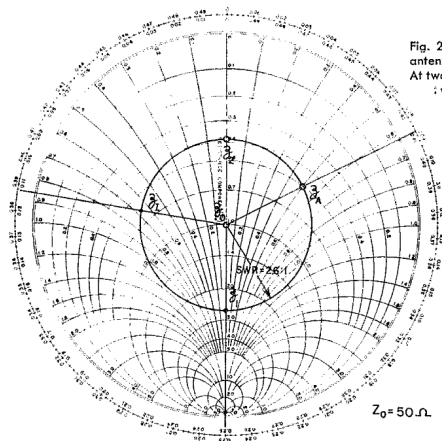
Kelley W4VPZ HP/KCOGP/MM

Rob KB5EZ ATNOs: Austral Is., Liberia

**Program:** Paul Nelson K4JAZ presented a program on SimSmith

## Smith Chart Recap

Last month's program by Paul Nelson, K4JAZ on using SimSmith to aid in Smith Chart calculations tickled the LongPath staff's memory of Smith charts in the good old days. Back in 1960, QST featured an article by L. A. Cholewski, K6CRT entitled *Some Amateur Applications of the Smith Chart*. It began by explaining Philip Smith's development of the chart to display complex impedances, with the drawing to the right:



The remaining examples were all plotted in this rotated orientation. In four pages, K6CRT covers a portion of K4JAZ's presentation, but noticeably missing is the convenience of solving L-section networks in seconds, with results in de-normalized farads and henries, by grabbing the impedance node at one end or another and dragging it to the desired location. Thanks, Paul, for the great presentation!

## Hamfest Banquet Announcement

In conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest, the North Alabama DX Club announces the 41<sup>st</sup> annual DX Banquet. This year's guest speaker is Bob Allphin K4UEE on "A Preview of the Upcoming Bouvet Island DXpedition (3Y0Z) : The Challenges and the Adventure."

### DATE & LOCATION

Saturday night, August 19, 2017, Social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner seating at 6:00 pm.

Best Western – Madison (free parking and only 10 minutes from the von Braun Center), 9035 Madison Boulevard, Madison AL 35758

### DETAILS

Tickets for the DX Banquet are \$38, available via <http://www.nadxc.org/nadxc-dinner-banquet-details/>. A PayPal account is not needed: the secure page accepts credit card transactions.

### MENU

A full buffet, non-alcoholic beverage, and dessert.

The hotel offers a full service bar before and during the Banquet.

### SPEAKER

Bob Allphin, K4UEE (from QRZ.com)

With the completion of the very successful K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island, K4UEE has reached a milestone in his ham radio "career". He has now participated in, led, or co-led DXpeditions to ELEVEN of the DXCC "top 10 most wanted". They are Baker/Howland (#8), Heard Island (#4), Bhutan (#3), South Sandwich Islands (#6), South Georgia Island (#10), Peter I Island (#4), Lakshadweep (#2), Desecheo Island (#6), Saba/St. Eustatius (all-time new one), Amsterdam/St. Paul (#4) and now Navassa Island (#1). In 2012, the HKØNA Malpelo Island DXpedition ranked #12 "most wanted", set a new World Record for QSOs for non-hotel, non fly-in DXpeditions.

Since retiring fifteen years ago to pursue DXpeditioning more or less full time, Bob has participated in ten MAJOR DXpeditions that have made over 1.25 million QSOs. He has ELEVEN "DXpedition of the Year" plaques hanging on his wall.

He is an active contestester and has participated in 38 contest DXpeditions. From the mid- 80s through the early 2000s, Bob set five single operator/single band World Records and was a competitor in two World Radio Team Championships (WRTC) events in 1996 and 2000.

Bob is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, Board of Directors of INDEXA, current President of The KP1-5 Project, and former Chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC). He is a member of the VooDoo Contest Group, FOC (First Class Operator Club), A-1 Operators Club, the Southeastern DX Club Hall of Fame.

### DOOR PRIZES

To be announced..., You must be present to win.

The 2016 Banquet Grand Prize - a Yaesu FTdx-1200 was won by Edward Seeliger, Jr KD5M.

## Charlie Emerson, N40KL

In Loving Memory

Of

Charles Thomas Emerson

Date: January 30, 2017

Mayfair Church of Christ

1095 Carl T. Jones Drive

Huntsville, AL 35802

Visitation: 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Service: 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm



Charles was born in Huntsville, Alabama to Floyd Lee and Robbie Lee Emerson. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran, a 29 plus years retiree from PPG, and had been serving as the President of the Huntsville Hamfest Association for the past 10 years. Charlie is survived by his ex-wife Amelia Hagar and their son Matthew Emerson and Mat's wife Liz Emerson, his loving wife of 16 years Nina Emerson, his stepson David Hartless and step-granddaughters Caroline, Sydney, and Amilya. Charlie was a dear man, a great friend, a loving husband, father, and grandfather: he will be sorely missed.

## DX Contests for February

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### CQWW RTTY WPX Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Feb 11, 0000Z to Feb 12, 2400Z

Exchange: RST & Serial No.

See page 97, Feb. QST and  
[www.cqwprrty.com/rules.htm](http://www.cqwprrty.com/rules.htm)

### Asia-Pacific Sprint, (CW), 40 & 20 meters

Feb 11, 1100Z to Feb 11, 1300Z

Exchange: RST & serial #

See page 97, Feb. QST and  
[www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt](http://www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt)

### ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (CW), 160-10 meters

Feb 18, 0000Z to Feb 19, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province; DX send RST plus pwr.

See page 97, Feb. QST and  
[www.arrl.org-dx](http://www.arrl.org-dx)

### CQ 160 Meter Contest (PH), 160 meters

Feb 24, 2200Z to Feb 26, 2200Z  
Exchange: RS plus State/Province/CQ zone

See page 97, Feb. QST and  
[www.CQ160.com/rules.htm](http://www.CQ160.com/rules.htm)

### REF French Contest (PH), 80-10 meters

Feb 25, 0600Z to Feb 26, 1800Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial No.; F stns. send Dept.

See page 97, Feb. QST and  
[www.concourse.r-e-f.org/contest/](http://www.concourse.r-e-f.org/contest/)

### UBA (Belgium) Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Feb 25, 1300Z to Feb. 26, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.; ON stns. send province

See page 97, Feb. QST and  
[www.uba.be/en/traffic-news](http://www.uba.be/en/traffic-news)

### ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (PHONE), 160-10 meters

Mar 4, 0000Z to Mar 5, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province; DX send RS plus pwr

See page 89, Mar. QST and  
[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

### Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Mar 11, 1500Z to Mar 12, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Character Grid Square

See page 89, Mar. QST and  
[www.kkn.net/stew](http://www.kkn.net/stew)

Other contests:

### KCJ Topband Contest, CW,

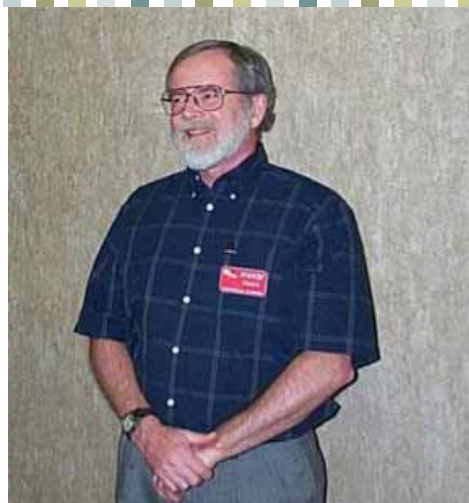
1200Z, Feb 11 - 2400Z, Feb 12

### Balkan HF contest, CW/SSB,

1200Z, Feb 12 - 1800Z, Feb 12

### Russian PSK WW contest, DIG,

1200Z, Feb 18 - 1159Z, Feb 18



### SARL Digital Contest, DIG,

1300Z Feb 26 - 1600Z, Feb 26

### UBA Spring Contest, CW,

0700Z, Mar 5 - 1100Z, Mar 5

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

## The LongPath Staff

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